

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

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R 231528Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

S E C R E T LUSAKA 2513

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (5TH LINE PAR A 1)

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR ZA AO SF UR
SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN STRATEGY IN PREPARATION FOR OAU MEETING

1. MARK CHONA SUMMONED ME TO STATE HOUSE DEC 23 TO
EXPLAIN HOW HE SAW COMMON STRATEGY DEVELOPING BETWEEN
ZAMBIA AND FRIENDLY AFRICAN NATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR
EFFECTIVE OAU MEETINGS IN JAN SO THAT BASIC OBJECTIVE
OF SUPPORT FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN ANGOLA COULD BE
ACHIEVED WITH A MINIMUM OF TENSION AND STRAIN AMONG
AFRICANS.

2. CHONA REVIEWED MAIN OUTLINES OF DIPLOMATIC
OFFENSIVE IN WHICH ZAMBIA NOW ENGAGED ON WIDE SCALE
TO ENSURE THAT PRO-MPLA FORCES ARE FIRMLY HELD IN
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CHECK AND GAIN NO GROUND., IMPORTANT THING, CHONA

BELIEVES, IS TO ACHIEVE AN EFFECTIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL
DEFEAT OF AGOSTINO NETO OF MPLA AT OAU MEETING. NEO
MUST BE UNMASKED AS COMPLETELY INTRANSIGENT ON ISSUE
OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND SINGLE-MINDED IN
WANTING AN MPLA-DOMINATED GOVT EVEN THOUGH IT COMMANDS
ONLY MINORITY SUPPORT IN ANGOLA. IF THIS CAN BE
CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATED IT SHOULD LOGICALLY FOLLOW,
CHONA ARGUED, THAT NETO WILL BE ISOLATED AND SOVIET
INTERVENTION IMPLICITLY CONDEMNED. FOLLOWING CLOSE
ON THIS, OTHER AFRICAN STATES WHICH HAVE NOT RECOGNIZED
MPLA WILL BE PERSUADED TO SEND DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO
MOSCOW TO DEAL A FINAL DEATH BLOW TO SOVIET INTERVENTION.
MOSCOW SHOULD GET THE MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR THAT ITS
INTERVENTION IS NOT WANTED IN AFRICA BY THE AFRICANS,
CHONA SAID.

3. AS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION, CHONA DESCRIBED
THIS AS AN EFFECT OF SOVIET INTERVENTIO, NOT A CAUSE--
ANOTHER POINT WH CH MUST BE DRIVEN HOME TO AFRICANS. IT
IS OBVIOUSLY AN EMOTIONAL AND TROUBLESOME ISSUE WITHIN
AFRICA BUT CA BE DEALT WITH. HE IMPLIED THAT ZAMBIA
AND MOZAMBIQUE WOULD BE "GETTING THE WORD" TO PRETORIA
TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA AND HOPED THIS COULD BE DONE
BEFORE OAU SUMMIT IN JAN. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT,
THERE MUST BE SOME ALTERNATIVE TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE
AND HOW MILITARY VACUUM FROM THEIR WITHDRAWAL CAN BE
FILLED. SAID THIS ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH
FRIENDLY COUNTRIES SUCH AS US AND FRANCE AND WAYS FOUND
TO MEET TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS. NOT SO STATED BUT
CHONA WAS OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO NEEDS OF UNITA.

4. CHONA STATED THAT SAG WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA MEANS
THEIR TROOPS WOULD MOVE BACK INTO NAMIBIA AND CREATE THERE A
LARGER MILITARY FORCE THAN THAT TERRITORY HAD EVER KNOWN
BEFORE WHICH WOULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHEN TIME CAME
FOR OAU TO MOUNT AN ALL-OUT CAMPAIN FOR THAT TERRITORY'S
INDEPENDENCE. HOWEVER, AFRICANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL
WITH THAT AT PROPER TIME.

5. COMMENT: CHONA'S SCENARIO FOR DISCREDITING NETO AND SOVIETS
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AT OAU MEETING IS NICE IF IT WORKS BUT I EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS
THAT HEARTY RUSSIANS WOULD BE ALL THAT HURT AS A RESULT OF OAU
DELIBERATIONS. I FELT SOME HARD-HITTING FOLLOW THROUGH
STEPS WOULD BE NEEDED TO PUT TEETH IN ANY OAU RESOLUTION FOR
END TO ALL FOREIGN INTOFENTION. CHONA APPEARED NOT TO HAVE
GONE THAT FAR IN HIS THINKING.
WILKOWSKI

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NNN

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